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ZOOLOGICAL DIVISION'S NEW HOME AT BELTSVILLE

Recently Completed Buildings Provide Ideal Set-Up for Parasite Work

In accordance with the plan of the United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Animal Industy, to concentrate all of its research and control work at the government station, Beltsville, Md., $ 80,000 were appropriated in 1934 from Public Works money for the erection of buildings on and the development of the section at the station allocated to the Zoological Division of which Dr. Maurice C. Hall is the Chief. The work has progressed rapidly, and the main laboratory (Fig. 1) was recently dedicated with appropriate ceremony.

In planning the development, it was the purpose to keep intact all wild growth, such as holly trees, laurel, etc., for the beautification of the grounds. Trees were left standing wherever possible for providing shade for the animals. Including the main laboratory, all of the buildings on the farm were designed by Dr. Lawrence Avery, Superintendent, of the Zoological Division Station, in consultation with the scientific staff, and Dr. Avery has carried out in detail Dr. Hall's general orders to have all buildings as artistic as is compatible with reasonable cost and general utility. The rustic bridge, shown in Fig. 2 exemplifies Dr. AveryIs skill and design.

The station has been developed sith special reference to the work to be done. Most of the fields have double fences instead of a common fence where the fields adjoin, and the space between the fields ditched to prevent contamination by parasite material moving from one field to another by water. Every building has a septic tank connected with it, so that all parasite material is carried through these tanks. Ultimately, the effluent is discharged through buried drainage tile. A number of the buildings have an oil moat around the wall on the inside to prevent ticks from coming in or going out, and to prevent other crawling insects or similar life from moving in or out of the building. Some of the buildings have a special room for unpacking packages - this room being surrounded by a wide oil moat to prevent cockroaches from getting into the building from packages. Wherever experiments demand it, the usual screens are supplemented by additional vestibules and the screening of individual stalls or cages.

The road system at the station has been named after former members of the Division and former Chiefs of the Bureau, so that there is a Salmon Road, the Melvin Road, Stiles Road, Ransom Road, Curtice Road, Hassall Road and Graybill Road. All these avenues are marked by neat and artistic signs done by Dr. Avery.

The new laboratory (Fig. 1) has 24 laboratory and office rooms on the first and second floors. The basement contains a large refrigerator for the storage of carcasses and specimens, a large postmortem room, a technician's room, a store room, a dining room and kitchen. There is a conference room on the first floor and here will be placed four large crayon portraits of Curtice, Stiles, Ransom, and Hassall. These portraits are the work of Dr. Maurice C. Hall's daughter, Marion.

The animal shelters, designed by Dr. Avery, are of the same uniform type of construction as the rest of the buildings, being built of cinder block with a concrete floor and with red asbestos shingles. Acide from movable structures, such as, some farrowing houses, everything on the premises is designed for durability, fireproof character and artistic appearance, for which Dr. Avery merits considerable praise. He is an unusual and remarkable combination of veterinarian, artist and practical builder.

One of the interesting features of the Division's practical equipment are the insulated boxes (Fig. 3) for the sterilization of manure. Steam at 25 pounds pressure is turned into these boxes from the pipe line shown in the photograph, after which it enters the box along the floor through a grid of iron pipes, perforated at intervals and then rises to the top. The temperature of the box is brought to a point above 100°C., which kills all parasite eggs and larvae, all fly maggots, all pathogenic bacteria and all weed seeds, so far as can be judged at the present time. Steam is again turned into these boxes every two weeks to prevent any fly larvae from pupating and escaping as adult flies.

It is safe to say that, from the stand point of beauty, the Zoological Division's section at the Beltsville Station stands among the first rank in this country and abroad. It is, without question, one of the best developed "set-ups" for parasite work in existence. It is unusually well adapted to research and has already justified its existence in that respect.

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